

SECRET

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 4

Monday, 14 May 1962 - 1500 Hours

Present were: General Carter  
Mr. Helms  
Col. White  
Dr. Scoville  
Mr. Sheldon for DD/I  
Mr. Kirkpatrick  
Mr. Bross  
Mr. Houston  
Mr. Earman  
Dr. Kent

1. Mr. Kirkpatrick, acting for General Carter, announced that as a general practice Committee members are not to take notes during meetings except as action reminders. If members have questions concerning the proceedings, they can be briefed by the Executive Secretary.

2. Proposed expansion of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe (in accordance with attached paper) was discussed by Messrs. Cord Meyer and [redacted]. The Committee authorized Mr. Meyer to explore, in a preliminary way, reaction to the proposed expansion by the members of the Interdepartmental Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy--namely Deputy Under Secretary of State U. Alexis Johnson and USIA Director Edward R. Murrow--and report back to the Executive Committee before any approach is made to the Special Group.

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3. Colonel J. C. King briefed Agency operations in conjunc-

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4. Meeting adjourned at 1620 with other agenda items held over.

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Executive Secretary  
[redacted]  
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downgrading and  
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S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe -  
Proposed Expansion

1. Current and proposed U.S. policies require continuous psychological, political and economic pressures against the Soviet Bloc designed to bring about over the long term a liberalization in those regimes which would draw them gradually into postures less dangerous to Western society. Radio Liberty (RL), broadcasting to the Soviet Union, and Radio Free Europe (RFE), broadcasting to the European Satellites, are primary instruments used in furthering these objectives. To achieve greater impact on their listening audience, these radios need more resources in the form of transmitters, antenna modifications, power and people. Such additional resources, as proposed in this memorandum, would improve signal strength, provide for more hours of broadcasting, and make possible better programming. We believe that these resources should be provided these radios for the following reasons:

a. Ferment in the Bloc and in the Communist movement generally appears to be on the increase and provides vulnerabilities and opportunities which we should exploit fully. Realizing the limitations on what can be done, we believe it essential to attempt by all means available to us to influence evolutionary changes in the USSR and in the Satellites in directions favorable to our interests. This is consistent with current U.S. policies, and the proposed policies outlined in the draft of the W. W. Rostow paper, "Basic National Security Policy" dated 26 March 1962.

b. Radio broadcasting is a principal, and in some cases the only, means of Western communication with the closed societies within the heartland of Soviet Communism. RL and RFE have demonstrated that their broadcasts attract large and significant listening audiences in these target areas. We believe that these targets warrant a high priority and that it is in the U.S. interest to increase both the technical and programming impact of these two radios.

c. Worsening propagation conditions because of the sun spot cycle over the next four years, greater use of the broadcast frequency spectrum generally and continued Bloc jamming will reduce the effectiveness of these radios unless their power is increased. The Office of Communications and an independent consulting firm confirm this. It is also borne out by USIA monitoring of Western broadcasts carried out within the Soviet Bloc.

2. The following factors should be considered:

a. Twelve to eighteen months are required to manufacture and install the heavy transmitters and antenna equipment proposed.

b. In [redacted] where the recommended capital equipment for RFE would be installed, RFE is presently operating under a lease which expires in December 1962. RFE's continued [redacted] beyond

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S E C R E T

c. In accordance with policies developed by the Interdepartmental Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy (State, USIA, CIA) RL and RFE broadcasts differ substantially from VOA broadcasts. RL and RFE deal extensively with internal affairs of their target countries and both reflect a substantial volume of West European points of view and commentary. They also broadcast programs which correct the record of regime distortions to their peoples. VOA broadcasts primarily explain American policies, views, and institutions. (The complementary roles of RFE and VOA, for example, were endorsed by Deputy Undersecretary of State U. Alexis Johnson in a speech to major contributors to the RFE Fund in February 1962.) VOA is increasing its transmitter power for native language broadcasts to the Bloc through larger transmitters being leased from the BBC. VOA is also increasing the signal strength and hours of worldwide English language broadcasts.

This matter would doubtless require discussion with the Director of the Budget. We would also assume that these proposals would require clearance with the Special Group.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive Committee recommend to the DCI that he:

- a. approve this proposal.
- b. clear it with the Special Group.
- c. Reach agreement with the Director of the Budget on funding and subsequent budgeting of this proposal.

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AGENDA  
for  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
14 May 1962 - 3:00 p.m.

Item No. 1: Proposed expansion of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe - Cord Meyer (See attached paper)

Item No. 2: Briefing by Col. J. C. King  
(3:30 p.m.)

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Item No. 3: Progress Report - Dr. Scoville

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NOTE: Overtime Policy - Retain, for discussion at a future meeting, Agency overtime notices attached to agenda of 7 May meeting.

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